AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

What is claimed is:

1. -22. (Canceled)

23. (Withdrawn) A method of drilling a wellbore in a subterranean formation, said method comprising the steps of obtaining or preparing a drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion wherein the invert emulsion has a base or continuous phase comprising a blend of linear alpha olefins and paraffin hydrocarbons, and circulating the drilling fluid in the wellbore during drilling.

24. (Currently amended) A method of drilling a wellbore in a subterranean formation, said method comprising the steps of obtaining or preparing a drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion wherein the invert emulsion has a base or continuous phase comprising isomerized olefins and paraffin hydrocarbons blended with esters, and wherein the esters comprise at least about 10 weight percent and less than about 99 weight percent of the blend, the paraffin hydrocarbons comprise less than about 90 weight percent of the blend and the isomerized olefins comprise less than about 90 weight percent of the blend, and circulating the drilling fluid in the wellbore during drilling.

25. (Withdrawn) A method of drilling a wellbore in a subterranean formation, said method comprising the steps of obtaining or preparing a drilling fluid comprising an invert emulsion wherein said invert emulsion has a base or continuous phase comprising a blend of naphthenic hydrocarbons and other paraffin hydrocarbons, and circulating the drilling fluid in the wellbore during drilling.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23 wherein the paraffin hydrocarbons are selected from the group consisting of linear paraffins, branched paraffins, poly-branched paraffins, cyclic paraffins, isoparaffins, and mixtures thereof.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23 wherein the paraffin hydrocarbons have about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23 wherein said paraffin hydrocarbons comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of the blend.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23 wherein the paraffin hydrocarbons comprise less than about 50 weight percent of the blend.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23 wherein the linear alpha olefins comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of the drilling fluid.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23 wherein the linear alpha olefins comprise about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the paraffin hydrocarbons are selected from the group consisting of linear paraffins, branched paraffins, poly-branched paraffins, cyclic paraffins, isoparaffins, or mixtures thereof.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the paraffin hydrocarbons have about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the paraffin hydrocarbons comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of the blend.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the isomerized olefins comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of the drilling fluid.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the isomerized olefins have about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the isomerized olefins are selected from the group consisting of internal olefins, cyclic olefins, and mixtures thereof.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38 wherein the internal olefins may be straight chain or branched chain.

40. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25 wherein the paraffin hydrocarbons are selected from the group consisting of linear paraffins, branched paraffins, poly-branched paraffins, isoparaffins, and mixtures thereof.

41. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25 wherein the paraffin hydrocarbons have about 10 to about 30 carbon atoms.

42. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25 wherein the paraffin hydrocarbons comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of the blend.

43. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25 wherein the napthenic hydrocarbons comprise about 1 to about 99 weight percent of the drilling fluid.

44. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25 wherein the napthenic hydrocarbons comprise a saturated, cycloparaffinic material having a chemical formula:

$$C_nH_{2n}$$

wherein n is about 5 to about 30.